

We need the insight and expertise of health data staff at your agency to develop a web site to meet the needs of the public health and health services research communities. If you do not work regularly with public health data, we are requesting that you forward this e-mail to a practitioner at your agency who does.

Let us help you get to the information you need. Please link to www.cbay.tv to complete our State and Local Survey to guide our efforts. The Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC) <www.cdc.gov/nchs/otheract/phdsc/phdsc.htm>, which developed this survey, is a coalition of organizations committed to the promotion of data standards for public health and health services research through the collaboration of state, federal, and private sector organizations. The PHDSC is interested in exploring the educational needs of public health data users related to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other data standards issues, as well as on-line capacities.

Standards are the fundamental building blocks of effective health information systems and are essential for efficient and effective public health and health care delivery systems. Health data standards or uniform data formats are critical to support the flow of information throughout public health programs and health data systems. Such standards and formats also aid in streamlining early warning systems and in the analysis of data to determine emerging health threats.

Note: Other staff at your organization may receive a request to complete this same survey. Obtaining differing points of view will make it easier for us to address broad-based needs.

Thank you for your attention to this timely and important process. Your input matters!